



Appointments and Briefings

September 10, 2007 - 7:00 p.m. - **Agenda**
City Council Chamber, Room 214 – Municipal Building

View Minutes

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1. CITIZENS INPUT TIME – not to exceed the first thirty (30) minutes of the meeting.
 - 1a. Richard J. Kendall, 77 Myrtle Street, New Bedford, MA, speaking about ongoing problems on Myrtle, and Clark Streets.
 - 1b. Diane Bolton, 60 Orchard Street, New Bedford, MA, speaking on a project for the Plight of babies in the City.
 - 1c. David Palmer, 177 Ashley Boulevard, New Bedford, MA, speaking on Rural Cemetery.

INVITEES: Richard J. Kendall; Diane Bolton; David Palmer

2. COMMUNICATION, Mayor Lang to City Council submitting the APPOINTMENT of MICHAEL AMARAL of 36 Vernon Street, New Bedford, MA, 02745 to serve on the Zoning Board of Appeals, replacing Cynthia V. Thomas who resigned May 2007. This term will expire December 2007. (Ref'd 8/16/07)

INVITEES: Michael Amaral

3. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, on behalf of Gerald J. Pinto, sponsor of the School Safe Zone Initiative - if it is a School Zone, it should be a Safe Zone - asking that the City Council send a letter to the School Department and the Mayor, as well as the Chamber of Commerce, and go on record in support of Mr. Pinto's proposal, creating a safe zone for children at all schools and in all New Bedford Public Buildings, along with the help of the business community; and further, that the City Council's Committee on Appointments & Briefings allow Mr. Pinto to appear before the Committee during Citizen's input time at it's next meeting. (Ref'd 5/24/07, recommend CC endorse the School Safe Zone program – 6/13/07)

INVITEES: Sponsor of the School Safe Zone Initiative Jerry Pinto

4. Communications/Emails, To and From Councillor Joe F. DeMedeiros, Richard J. Kendall, 77 Myrtle Street, DIS, DPI, DPF, POLICE, and FIRE, re: ongoing problems on and around Myrtle and Clark Streets. (Ref'd 8/16/07)

INVITEES: DIS Commissioner Ronald Durgin; DPI Commissioner Ron Labelle; DPF Commissioner Lawrence D. Worden; Police Chief Ron Teachman; Fire Chief Paul E. Leger

5. Related Motion, Councillor Gonsalves, asking that the City Council meet in the Committee on Appointments & Briefings, with the Police Chief and a representative of the Mayor to address their request that the Council provide them with sites for possible Police Substations and get more information as to what the siting of those Substations would entail. (Ref'd 4/12/07)

INVITEES: Police Chief Ron Teachman; Representative of the Mayor

6. Related Motion, Councillor Morad, requesting that the Committee on Appointments and Briefings invite the Treasurer to join the Council in discussion regarding the current arrangements that are in place

as it relates to Compensating Balance Agreements with financial institutions as they are planned for FY2007 and FY2008. (Ref'd 6/28/07)

INVITEES: City Treasurer R. Renee Fernandes-Abbott; City Auditor Peter Schmidt

7. Written Motion, Councillors Alves and Morad, requesting, that the Committee on Appointments and Briefings, meet as soon as possible with Alex Nasrawi, owner of the former Cameo Curtains property, to discuss the recently abandoned plans to redevelop this mill into a housing/mixed use development. (Ref'd 6/28/07)

INVITEES: Alex Nasrawi

8. Written Motion, Councillor Coelho, requesting, that the City Planner, Historic Preservation Planner, Environmental Stewardship Director, Inspectional Services Commissioner and Community Development Director, along with Economic Development Director and representative(s) from WHALE, meet with the Committee on Appointments and Briefings to review mill buildings throughout the City of New Bedford to determine their historical importance, environmental/safety issues (if any,) redevelopment/development potential – including significance of location in the City's Master Plan, in order to identify which mills should be preserved and which should not. (Ref'd 7/19/07)

INVITEES: WHALE President Peter Hawes; City Planner David A. Kennedy; Historic Preservation Planner Anne Lauro; Environmental Stewardship Director Scott Alfonse; DIS Commissioner Danny Romanowicz; Community Development Director Patrick Sullivan; Economic Development Director Matthew Morrissey

9. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting that Mayor Lang authorize the Board of Health to give notice to all fast food restaurants and coffee shops in the City, of the City Ordinance requiring that trash receptacles be installed at every fast food restaurant and coffee shop across the City, and giving the authority to the Board of Health to assist the City in getting the law enforced to get these receptacles in place, in an effort to help ease the burden of trash on our City streets that comes from fast food and coffee shops located throughout the City. (Ref'd 7/19/07)

INVITEES: Board of Health Chairperson Barbara A. Silva; Health Department Director Marianne DeSousa

10. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, asking that the Committee on Appointments & Briefings meet with the City Planner, Conservation Agents and Representative(s) of Parks/Recreation to discuss the overall plans for the East Beach area, including the design for new lifeguard/rest room building(s), and to brief the Councillors on exactly what has taken place at the site so far; further, to discuss the potential of adding/designating space for a Snack Bar to be located in the building(s) for the Beach goers and residents of the area, which, through its rental, would also bring in revenue that could be used as upkeep and maintenance of the new building(s) and facilities; and further, that nothing takes place at that location until the said meeting with the Committee on Appointments and Briefings takes place. (Ref'd 8/16/07)

INVITEES: City Planner David A. Kennedy; Conservation Agent Sarah Porter; Superintendent of Parks & Public Places Kenneth Blanchard

11. COMMUNICATION, The Coalition For Buzzards Bay, to City Council, requesting to appear before Council to discuss 2007 State of the Bay. (Ref'd 8/16/07)

INVITEES: The Coalition for Buzzards Bay Executive Director/Baykeeper Mark P. Rasmussen; Planning Board Chairman George N. Smith; Board of Health Chairperson Barbara A. Silva; Conservation Agent Sarah Porter; DPF Commissioner Lawrence D. Worden

12. Written Motion, Councillor Lawrence, requesting a meeting with a representative from either the Mayor's Office, the City Solicitor and/or the City Planner to discuss the progression of the

development on the Route 18 project. (Ref'd 1/27/05, tabled 11/15/06, tabled for 6 months 2/12/07)

INVITEES: City Planner David A. Kennedy; Representative of the Mayor; City Solicitor Attorney Irene B. Schall

13. Written Motion, Councillor Gonsalves, requesting that the Committee on Appointments and Briefings, meet with Conservation Agent Porter, DPI Commissioner Labelle, Members of the Park Board, DPF Commissioner Worden, and DPF Superintendents Amaral and Blanchard, to discuss BUTTONWOOD PARK EROSION, and that Richard Leary, 609 Union Street also be invited to said meeting. (Ref'd 10/26/06, tabled for 6 months 2/12/07)

INVITEES: INVITEES: Conservation Agent Sarah Porter; DPI Commissioner Ronald Labelle; Park Board Members: Chairman Thomas A. Viera, Robert K. Gardner, Jr., Peter Boswell, Edward Correia, Sandra Grace; DPF Commissioner Lawrence D. Worden; Superintendent of Parks & Public Places Kenneth Blanchard; Superintendent of Park Maintenance Kevin Amaral; Richard Leary

14. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting once more, as this petitioner did in the 1990's, that the City of New Bedford take immediate action to POST throughout the City and in the City's Public Buildings and Schools, a Mission Statement addressing the issue of Hate Crimes and Discrimination and the Zero Tolerance that the City takes on these issues; further, that this document be signed by the entire City Council, the Mayor, District Attorney, School Committee, and Police Chief firmly showing that they are unified and committed in their support of Zero Tolerance against Hate Crimes or discrimination of any type in the City of New Bedford; and further, that the City Council, Administration, School and Police Departments follow the city's Ordinance relative to the "Bias Crimes", also instituted in the 1990's, and refer all incidents/occurrences/crimes relating to Discrimination, Bias or Hate Crimes to the Police Department, to be referred to the Executive Director of the Human Relations Commission, with the information stipulated in the Bias Crime Ordinance, Chapter 2, Article IX, Commission on Human Relations; Section 2-136. (Ref'd 2/9/06, remain in committee 2/12/07, referred to Legal Counsel for drafting a Zero Tolerance mission statement for adoption by the City Council W/I 30 days, also to review current Bias Ordinance and it be referred to the Ordinance Committee 7/18/07)
- 14a. Communication, Attorney David J. Gerwatowski, Legal Counsel to Councillor Denis Lawrence, Jr., Chairman, submitting a draft policy on Hate Crimes for the Committee's review. (Ref'd 7/26/07)

INVITEES: Attorney David J. Gerwatowski Chairman suggests "No Further Action" be taken on the following items:

15. Written Motion, Councillor Saunders, requesting that the Committee on Appointments and Briefings schedule a meeting with Tom Pina regarding Federal violation against the City of New Bedford; and further, asking that this meeting be allowed to go into Executive Session. (Ref'd 9/14/06, NFA on 4/11/07 – send letters if no response from Gerwatowski & Mayor in 30 days, Asked that Gerwatowski voice his opinion on the matter, and also that the Mayor provide us with who is responsible for the Responsible Employers Act Monitoring)
- 1 5a. Communication, Mayor Lang to Councillor Denis Lawrence, Jr., Chairman, Committee on Appointments and Briefings, Re: Responsible Employers Act Monitoring. (Ref'd 8/28/07)
- 1 5b. Communication, Attorney David J. Gerwatowski, Legal Counsel to Councillor Denis Lawrence, Jr., Chairman, Committee on Appointments and Briefings submitting response to committees request for opinion on Affirmative Action Issues. (Ref'd 4/20/07)
16. Written Motion, Councillor Gonsalves, requesting that the Committee on Appointments and Briefings meet with the Zoning Board of Appeals, to address delays in getting decisions transcribed, which delay the Petitioner from proceeding on their ventures. (Ref'd 3/22/07, send

letters to Solicitors asking them why they approve ZBA minutes - 5/9/07)

- 16a. COMMUNICATION, Jane Medeiros Friedman, First Assistant City Solicitor to Councillor Denis Lawrence, Jr., Chairman Committee on Appointments & Briefings, Re: Zoning Board of Appeals. (Ref'd 5/17/07)
17. Written Motion, Councillor Gonsalves, requesting on behalf of several constituents in Ward 5, that the Appointments and Briefings Committee meet with the Board of Assessors, as soon as possible, to discuss the apparent inconsistencies in property valuations, during the last re-evaluation process that has impacted the 2007 tax bills. (Ref'd 1/11/07, 3/12/07 - letters sent to DOR, and Board of Assessors – 4/6/07)
- 17a. Communication, Administrative Assistant, Board of Assessors, Peter S. Barney to Councillor Denis Lawrence, Jr., Chairman, Committee on Appointments & Briefings, Re: Meetings with Neighborhood Groups. (Ref'd 4/13/07)